

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2349

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2969
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Education and Health and Human Services,
to which was referred S.B. No. 2969 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MAUI WILDFIRE EXPOSURE
STUDY AND MAUI HEALTH REGISTRY,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to appropriate
funds for the University of Hawai'i to expand and sustain services
provided by the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study and Maui Health
Registry.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure
from the State Health Planning and Development Agency, University
of Hawai'i System, State Council on Mental Health, Hawai'i
Community Health, Kaiser Permanente, American Lung Association in
Hawai'i, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Hawaii
Medical Association, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hawai'i, Hawaii
Medical Service Association, Lāhainā Strong, Kohala Coast Urgent
Care and Moloka'i Family & Urgent Care, Hawai'i Public Health
Association, Roots Reborn, one member of the Maui County Council,
and thirty-six individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the
Alzheimer's Association and one individual.



Your Committees find that the devastating 2023 Maui wildfires continue to impact local residents, including through toxic exposures, respiratory illnesses, and mental health challenges. The Maui Wildfire Exposure Study and Maui Health Registry have offered critical community-based health care services to thousands of affected residents, including children, the elderly, first responders, and medically vulnerable populations. Early detection of fire-related health conditions improves treatment options and lowers associated costs. This measure demonstrates the State's sustained commitment to community-centered, disaster-informed health response.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting a blank appropriation amount; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committees note that although this measure, as amended, contains an unspecified appropriation amount, should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committees respectfully request that it consider inserting an appropriation amount of \$3,000,000 for the University of Hawai'i, in collaboration with community partners, to expand and sustain the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study and Maui Health Registry.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Education and Health and Human Services that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2969, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2969, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Education and
Health and Human Services,



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes
Committee on Education
EDU**

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2969	Committee Referral: EDU/HHS, WAM	Date: 02/11/2024		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol				✓
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
TOTAL	4			1 1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Michelle N. Kidani</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

***Only one measure per Record of Votes**

